



Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant (SOHG) Working to assist survivors of homicide victims

Program Information:

As a follow up to Maryland's repeal of the death penalty, House Bill 355 was signed into law on April 14, 2014. This law established a grant program to address the specific needs of family members and other survivors of homicide victims whose lives have been traumatized by these violent acts. SOHG includes, but is not limited to, providing and facilitating referrals to appropriate legal and mental health counseling services for survivors of homicide victims including specialized support services to adult and minor survivors; and also promotes the creation and expansion of services dedicated to survivors of homicide victims in all parts of the State.

The purpose of the SOHG grant program is to provide support to survivors of homicide victims in ways not otherwise covered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Priority will be shown for projects that focus on the following needs of survivors of homicide victims:

- Legal Services
- Counseling and crisis intervention
- Services in rural areas (statistics must support need for funding)
- General support groups
- Victim support for cases without a defendant
- Law Enforcement training and notification services
- Forensic interviews of children
- Technology that facilitates and enhances the ability to serve survivors
- Training for service providers in meeting the needs of this unique victim group

Eligibility:

- State Government Agencies
- Local Government Agencies
- Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services Programs including Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Match: Not Required

Tentative Dates for the SOHG Program:

- NOFA posted: April
- Electronic and Hard Copy Due Dates: May
- Project Start Date: July 1

Objectives:

- To provide or facilitate referrals to appropriate counseling, legal, mental health and advocacy services for survivors of homicide;
- To assure that specialized support services to survivors of homicide victims include adults and minors;
- To provide a toll-free telephone number and assistance to exercise their rights to which the survivors are entitled by law;
- To assure that survivors of homicide victims receive information about and assistance in filing for Victim's Compensation.

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Technical Assistance Videos are available at <http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/>

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